

**HIGHLIGHTS
OF THE
GIBSON
ADMINISTRATION
1970-1985**



FIRST TERM

- * Reduced property tax by over 10% over two years.
- * Reduced total crime by 12%.
- * Returned walking patrolmen to Newark's streets.
- * Demolished 1,500 dilapidated buildings.
- * \$52 million in new and rehabilitated housing.
- * Created the city's first full-time recreation program.
- * Established a network of neighborhood health and day care centers.
- * Reduced total number of false alarms and fires by 25%.
- * Created the Office of Elderly Affairs.
- * Increased Newark's share of state and federal funds by 100%.
- * Established an unprecedented working partnership with the Newark business community.

SECOND TERM

- * By taking advantage of outside funding sources, the cost of city government to the local taxpayer was reduced from 67% to 35%.
- * In 1975 there was a deficit of \$4.8 million. By 1977 there was a \$20 million surplus.
- * Reduced short term debt to almost zero.
- * Sexual Assault Rape Analysis Unit established in police department – serving as a model for other police departments.
- * The first victim service center in the state established.
- * Police communications modernized with the establishment of a “911” emergency telephone system.
- * In 8 years more than 3,752 new housing units built and 2,033 units rehabilitated – including 1,374 units for senior citizens.
- * Total building fires down 50% since 1972. Fire deaths down 50% in the same period. Vacant building fires down 35%.
- * Office of Elderly Affairs coordinated five free hot lunch centers for seniors; medical check-ups at the centers; the opening of three new senior citizen activities centers.
- * The network of health care centers included seven centers with more planned.
- * More than 7,000 clients participate in supplemental feeding program for women, infants and children each month.
- * Every day 1,141 seniors are fed hot nutritious meals.
- * Infant mortality cut in half. So was TB. VD reduced by 80%.
- * Three new hotels open. Retail sales are up. Public Service plans new office building and Prudential has invested \$81 million in 10 years.

THIRD TERM

- * Since 1970, the property tax levy went up by a total of only 6/10 of 1% while the cost of living went up 135% for the same period. The equalized tax rate had gone from \$6.84 in 1970 to \$4.88 in 1981.
- * When adjusted for inflation, municipal spending was reduced by 30%. The municipal payroll was reduced by 31.2% – eliminating approximately 1,900 jobs.
- * City Hall, Symphony Hall, and many other municipal facilities were extensively rehabilitated, while several agencies were relocated and consolidated for increased efficiency.
- * In 1970 Newark could not sell any bonds. By 1982 Newark had a BAA rating without qualification, and our bonds commanded competitive market rates with other stable municipalities.
- * The national crime rate increase for cities the size of Newark was 5% for the first six months of 1981; statewide it was 2%; in Newark, it was only 1%.
- * Since 1970 9,537 units of housing built, including 4,010 senior citizen units, 5,154 family units and 373 low-rent public housing units. Another 2,994 units were under construction or proposed.
- * 70 miles of Newark streets repaved.
- * 63 industrial and commercial development projects at a cost of \$242 million completed. An additional 29 projects planned, for a total project cost of \$375 million.
- * A self-insurance program that is the model for the nation instituted, saving the city \$1 million a year in premiums.
- * The first municipal agencies for consumer protection, rent control, taxicab regulation, service to senior citizens and recycling of waste established, along with the first departments of Engineering and Recreation and Parks.

FOURTH TERM

- * The property tax has only increased 29% since 1970 – from \$8.44 in 1970 to \$11.93 in 1985. In true dollars the tax is actually 1/4 of what it was in 1970.
- * In 1970 Newark had the worst Health delivery system in the nation. By 1981 it was rated 29th. In 1984 it was rated 8th best in the nation.
- * The city payroll reduced from 5800 employees in 1970 to 3600 employees in 1985.
- * Newark has become attractive to developers. People come from other states to buy properties in city auctions. At the last auction in December 1985, 160 out of 161 buildings were sold and all vacant lots offered were sold for up to 7 times the minimum asking bid.
- * Newark's bond rating has increased from BAA to A.
- * Since 1976 there has been a surplus of \$20 million. Since 1977 there has been no short term debt. Since 1976 less than \$1 million a year has been requested for emergency appropriations.
- * Broad Street was repaved from end to end, complete with new sidewalks.
- * The lease with Port Authority for Newark International Airport – the area's fastest growing airport – and Port Newark was renegotiated. Previously the rent was \$1 million annually. In 1985 it was \$9 million and will increase \$1.5 million annually until 1991 when it will be \$18 million. Newark will also receive a percentage of the profits. And Port Authority will provide funds for community development projects for the next 45 years.
- * Well over \$410 million has been invested in Newark by commercial and industrial projects with the assistance of the Newark Economic Development Corporation.
- * With financial stability, Newark reduced the payroll tax from 1% to 3/4 of 1%.
- * With less resources, the Newark Police Department had a 25% reduction in all major offenses from 1980 through 1983.
- * Due to an aggressive demolition program, thousands of unsightly and dangerous abandoned buildings have been torn down to make way for new affordable housing and economic development projects in the community.
- * Unveiled plans for residential, retail and commercial development of University Heights.